

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY-SEE REVERSE)

1. During the fall of 1952, a new, large military base was erected in the district of Szamotuly (P53/W98), west of Poznan. Informant was unable to determine what the exact location of the base was, but it is known that large quantities of Soviet military equipment were unloaded at the railroad station of Dobrojewo (P53/W88), Bzino (R54/F07) and Sierakow. The equipment included artillery pieces of different calibers, various kinds of machine guns, tanks, and other kinds of armament and equipment. A large number of Soviet soldiers have been observed living in what formerly were large estates; these estates were confiscated after the war, divided among the peasants, then taken away from the latter and transformed into military or state sovkhoses. Large Soviet military units, with large amounts of equipment at their disposal, are also located in the area of Kwiloz (O53/W67) and Lubosz (O53/W76). The base mentioned above is the closest Soviet military base and concentration of troops to Poznan.
2. In late November and early December, extensive Soviet maneuvers took place in the same area. They caused some comment, since, for days on end, not a single shot was fired either during the day or during the night; at other times, a great deal of artillery and small-arms firing took place. During the maneuvers, the soldiers participating in it were forbidden to take off their clothes or to spend even a few hours resting under a roof or in field tents. Instead, the troops spent all their time in fields, forests, and trenches or foxholes; warm food, prepared under very primitive conditions, was served only once a day, and no use was made of field kitchens. All lower-ranking officers were also required to live under the same conditions as the soldiers. Only older and higher-ranking officers were permitted to spend some time resting in tents or in village houses. The Soviet Air Force was also active in the maneuvers. It is not known if the troops participating in these maneuvers were troops which had recently come from the Soviet Union, or whether they were troops which had been transferred from other parts of Poland, or from East Germany; it is only known that they came from the direction of Poznan, from Silesia, and from the west.

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3. At the same time, and in some places in the same area, Polish troops also participated in maneuvers. They were obtained from surrounding garrisons, particularly from that at Biedrusko (P63/X27)¹.
4. During the time that the maneuvers took place, control of all vehicles and persons was performed by Soviet troops who are called by the Poles "regulowszozyk". These troops were to be found on all roads, at all junctions, and in all villages, and always work in groups of six. Vehicles and persons who did not have Soviet permits were forced to turn back, or in some cases were held by the Soviets, or even imprisoned.
5. [REDACTED] the purpose of these maneuvers was to accustom the soldiers to wartime conditions in front lines, where there would be no quarters, no warm food, and no comforts, and where they would have to put up with whatever weather there was.
1. [REDACTED] Comment: Biedrusko is a large military training camp, situated about 18 kilometers north of Poznan on the Warta river.

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